

Children's Cabinet
Work Group on Early Childhood Education and School Readiness

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

*East Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building
1111 E Broad St, Richmond, VA 23219*

MEETING MINUTES

Participants: Erin Carroll, Lisa Specter Dunnaway, Rusty Fairheart, Shikee Franklin, Kathy Glazer, Tiffany Gordon, Emily Griffey, James Lane, Jennifer MacDonald, Bergen Nelson, Barbara Newlin, Anne-Marie Twohie, Rebecca Vinroot

I. Welcome

First Lady of Virginia Pamela Northam and Chief School Readiness Officer Jenna Conway welcomed meeting participants and began the meeting with introductions and a review of the agenda.

II. Recent Updates and Discussion of Needs Assessment and Strategic Plans

Jenna Conway provided a brief update on ongoing efforts, conversations, and initiatives – focusing primarily on the Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan that is underway as a part of Virginia's implementation of the \$9.9 million Preschool Development Birth to Five Grant. Chief Conway reviewed the work that has been done to date and summarized the needs assessment and its findings. The needs assessment combines four key aspects:

- i. Findings of recent state and national reports on early childhood care and education
- ii. Administrative and demographic data from federal and state databases
- iii. Interviews with families of young children, community leaders, and other early childhood stakeholders
- iv. Focus groups with child care center directors, educators, and child care providers

The needs assessment will also provide research on three areas related to the state of early childhood care and education: Virginia's children, resources, and overall system and structure.

III. Group Discussions

Following a review of recent updates and a discussion regarding the needs assessment and strategic plan overview, Chief Conway led group discussions surrounding a draft vision for early childhood care and education, draft principles, and draft goals.

- Draft Vision: All children in the Commonwealth of Virginia will thrive with the support of accessible, quality, and affordable early care and education delivered in safe and nurturing environments

The discussion of draft principles for early childhood care and education focused around being: 1) equitable, 2) family focused, 3) high quality, 4) strategic, and 5) innovative.

Building off of these draft principles, the discussion of draft goals centered on: 1) equitable access, 2) family engagement, 3) workforce (quality), 4) accountability, and 5) local capacity and innovation.